

Application No. 09/477,236
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*Response to Restriction Requirement
and preliminary Amendment*

Figure 1 - uncoated;

Figure 3 - diagonal stripe pattern (including waffle pattern of Figure 2);

Figure 4 - circularly perforated coating;

Figure 5 - longitudinal stripe pattern.

As understood, Applicant elects to prosecute the species of Figure 3 (including Figure 2), with traverse. Restriction is premature. The claims are not differentiated on the basis of these species and so restriction at this time necessarily involves consideration of multiple coating patterns.

No pending claim is specific to the elected species and no pending claim excludes the elected species. Therefore all pending claims are generic (i.e. the invention of all pending claims may be embodied in the elected species).

No claim reads on the uncoated balloon of Figure 1. The Specification has been amended to delete "of the invention" when referring to the balloon of Figure 1.

New claims 21 and 22 present further aspects of the invention, namely a claim directed to the protective mechanism of the invention. See discussion of Figure 6 and comparative Figure 7 on page 5 of the application. These claims are also generic for the reasons given above.

Respectfully submitted,

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